

Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 03454 170720Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 OPR-02 AID-05 ICA-11 IO-13 EUR-12
/077 W

-----043980 170728Z /17/10

P 170527Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5778H

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE AMMAN 3454

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, JO, OTRA
SUBJECT: VISIT OF JORDANIAN LABOR LEADER TO U.S.

REF A. AMMAN 3299, B. STATE 92682, C. AMMAN 2909

1. REQUEST FACILITATIVE PROGRAM AND INTERPRETER ASSISTANCE
FOR VISIT TO U.S. OF JORDANIAN LABOR LEADER ALI BENI-HANI.
GOAL OF U.S. VISIT IS TO ESTABLISH WORKING CONTACTS FOR
POSSIBLE FUTURE EXCHANGES WITH COUNTERPART AMERICAN UNIONS.
BENI-HANI ALSO VERY INTERESTED IN STUDYING RANGE OF SOCIAL
SERVICES PROVIDED BY U.S. UNION TO THEIR MEMBERSHIP FOR
POSSIBLE IMPLEMENTATION IN JORDAN.

2. AS NOTED REF A (WHICH CROSSED WITH REF B), ALI BENI-
HANI PLANS DEPART AMMAN APRIL 20 ON RJ 261 ARRIVING NEW
YORK AT 1800 HOURS. HE WISHES CONTINUE TRAVEL DIRECT TO
LOS ANGELES TO VISIT BROTHER WHO IS SCHEDULED FOR SURGERY.
HE HAS NOT MADE NY/LOS ANGELES RESERVATIONS AS HE DOES
NOT HAVE TICKET. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT'S INFORMING US AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE HOW ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIS ONWARD TRAVEL
SHOULD BE MADE. BENI-HANI PLANS TO REMAIN IN LOS
ANGELES FOR APPROXIMATELY TEN DAYS AND WILL THEN BE
FREE FOR AAFLI PROGRAMMING.

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3. BIO DATA: ALI BENI-HANI WAS BORN IN IRBID, JORDAN
IN 1941 AND COMPLETED HIS SECONDARY SCHOOL EDUCATION IN
IRBID IN 1957. HE WORKED FOR A COMMERCIAL TRADER UNTIL
1961 WHEN HE WAS HIRED BY THE IRBID ELECTRICAL AUTHORITY.
HE RECEIVED SOME TRAINING IN ELECTRICAL WORK AT THE
IRBID AND AMMAN VOCATIONAL TRAINING INSTUTES IN 1963.

IN 1969 HE WAS SENT TO MOSCOW'S VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER, UNDER JFTU SPONSORSHIP, BUT WITH USSR FUNDING. HE LEFT MOSCOW IN 1970 AFTER SPENDING LESS THAN A YEAR IN WHAT WAS MEANT TO BE A FOUR-YEAR PROGRAM, BECAUSE OF HIS EARLY DISENCHANTMENT WITH COMMUNIST SYSTEM. BENI-HANI WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE IRBID ELECTRICAL WORKERS UNION UPON HIS RETURN TO JORDAN IN 1970 AND WAS ELECTED TO THE JFTU'S EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN 1974. HE HAS BEEN A UNION PRESIDENT AND ACTIVE IN THE JFTU EVER SINCE. HIS CURRENT POSITION IS IRBID ELECTRICAL AUTHORITY'S REGIONAL SUPERVISOR FOR INDUSTRIAL SAFETY. AMONG THE SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCES BENI-HANI HAS ATTENDED ARE: ILC IN GENEVA 1975; ALO CONFERENCE IN ALEXANDIRA 1975; ALO CONFERENCE IN KHARTOUM 1976; AND SIXTEENTH CONVENTION OF SOVEIT TRADE UNIONS IN MOSCOW IN 1977. HE WAS SCHEDULED TO ATTEND THIS YEAR'S ALO CONFERENCE UNTIL IT WAS POSTPONED FOR A YEAR. HE HAS BEEN MARRIED SINCE 1964 AND HAS FIVE CHILDREN. PICKERING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978AMMAN03454
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780163-1159
Format: TEL
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780451/aaaabreu.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 260628ad-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 AMMAN 3299, 78 STATE 92682, 78 AMMAN 2909
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2952733
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF JORDANIAN LABOR LEADER TO U.S.
TAGS: ELAB, OTRA, JO, (BENI-HANI, ALI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/260628ad-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014